

# Richmond Dispatch.

THURSDAY.....FEBRUARY 3, 1881.

## PETERSBURG.

**THE COUNCIL AND THE HARBOR IMPROVEMENT; PROSPECT OF FAVORABLE AND DECISIVE ACTION—PAINTED ACCIDENT—STORAGE OF SECURE—NOTICE—ANOTHER INDECIDUOUS ATTEMPT.**

**[Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.]**

FEBRUARY 2, 1881.

The meeting of the Common Council last evening was the fullest that has been held for some months, all but two of the twenty-four members being present. The main subject of interest of the meeting was that of the improvement of the city harbor, as brought to the attention of the body in the resolutions adopted by the late citizens' meeting. The following resolutions were offered and adopted without debate:

**Resolved,** That the River Board be wittified, the president and directors of the Lower Appomattox Company—be, and they are hereby, instructed to make inquiry and report to the Common Council at its next meeting, or sooner thereafter, as practicable;

**That what will be the probable cost of so enlarging and deepening the city harbor, by the construction of a basin or otherwise, as will fit it at low tide for the convenient accommodation of steamers and other vessels drawing 12 feet of water;**

2d. What will be the cost of putting the dredge now owned by the city in proper repair; and see whether it will be most desirable to sell said dredge and purchase a new one. In the latter case, at what price the old dredge can be sold and at what price a new dredge can be purchased;

In making the foregoing inquiries the River Board are authorized to employ a competent expert to aid them; and they are directed to report also any other information deemed necessary to enable the Council to properly understand the condition and needs of the city harbor, with a view to keeping its improvement fully abreast with the work now done, and therefore to be done, by the General Government upon the river below the harbor;

This looks as though our harbor is ready to be improved, and that it is to be deepened to twelve feet at low tide. The matter is exciting a great deal of interest among our business-men. Last year, under the disadvantageous city law had to contend with in its harbor and river, over \$400,000 of goods were shipped from or brought to this port, and with deeper water for larger vessels this sum would be greatly increased.

Mr. Thomas J. Davis, who was despatched the court-house steps last night, slipped upon the ice and fractured his right leg near the ankle.

The Doctor, last evening, on a petition from a number of property-holders, discussed the matter of the storage in the heart of the city of summe-leaves, which have the reputation of being very inflammable material and productive of spontaneous combustion. The petition was referred for report;

The city has finally come into possession of the Fair Grounds by expropriation of the old Agricultural Society. What will be done with the property has not yet been decided. There is some talk of converting it into a public park, but whether this will be adopted is doubtful.

An attempt was made last night to burn the frame factory building belonging to Mr. Leroy Roper, on Main street, and at present unoccupied. The building was fired underneath, but was saved from material damage by the Fire Department.

The canal overflowed at the basin last night by reason of failure to raise the water-gates, and flooded the adjacent premises. A good deal of the water ran off through the neighboring streets.

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ROBIN ADAIR.

## LYNCHBURG.

A NEW BANK: SUBSCRIPTION OF STOCK—ELECTION OF DIRECTORS OF THE VIRGINIA SAVINGS BANK AND GAS COMPANY—MONTGOMERY PRE-BAPTIST—HUNTING COURT—POLICE STATISTICS—RECENT DEATHS—DEPRESSION AMONG THE RICK—BANQUET OF THE HOSE COMPANY—ACCIDENT TO A LADY—SALE OF A LOT—PERSONAL—THE GROUND-HOG.

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The stockholders of the Virginia Savings Bank held their annual session yesterday and elected the following directors and officers: Board of Directors: S. P. Halsey, N. B. Floyd, C. C. Buck, J. R. Maben, John T. Taylor, A. M. Davies, John D. Daniel, President, A. M. Davies; Vice-President, S. P. Halsey; Cashier, Robert L. Chandler.

The Lynchburg Gas-Light Company met yesterday afternoon and elected the following directors: R. W. Crenshaw, J. W. Watts, John F. Slaughter, James T. Williams, S. L. Moorman, and S. C. Hurt. The Board elected Mr. R. W. Crenshaw president of the company for the ensuing year.

The Montgomery Presbytery, at its session yesterday afternoon, dissolved the pastoral relations of Rev. James Dinwiddie with the Big Lick church. Rev. E. C. Gordon, of Salem, was directed to preach at the Big Lick church on the third Sunday in February and declare the church vacant. Mr. Dinwiddie will now assume charge of the Concord, New Concord, and Old Concord.

The case of J. B. Averett, charged with unlawful entanglement, was continued in the Hunting Court yesterday until the March term and the prisoner bailed.

Frederick Taylor, the negro who stole Mr. J. M. Watt's horse from Martin's warehouse, as reported last week in this correspondence, has been lodged in the city jail, and is to be tried next Friday in the Corporation Court. Taylor sold the stolen horse to Colonel R. H. Gilliam, of Buckingham county, to whom Mr. Watt has applied for its restitution.

The police were kept very actively engaged last month, in all 81 arrests were made; of which the subjects were divided as follows: White males, 29; white female, 1; colored males, 44; colored females, 7. Ten of these arrests were for an offence not often brought to the law's recognition—that of unlawful cohabitation.

The death of Mrs. Mary B. Marable and of Joseph B. Jennings are announced this morning. The death, too, occurred this morning of Robert A. Perkins, a colored man well known and much respected, who in former years was for many long time sexton of St. Paul's. He has been lately an official in the United States Post Office service. He had been sick for some weeks of asthma.

It is a common remark among people hereabouts that those who are sick now never appear to get well. This is not, of course, universally true; but the mortality of the town has recently been so great that the physicians say their patients are overcome with a certain depression or even slight unfavorable symptoms, and are harder than ever to yield to treatment on account of the relaxation produced by fear and low spirits.

The usual banquet of the Lynchburg Hose Company, No. 1, at the Novelty Inn last night, was a grand occasion. Captain Charles W. Seward presided. Toasts were offered appropriate to the occasion, and many good speeches and responses made.

Mrs. Colonel Augustus Letchworth slipped up on the ice yesterday, on the back porch of her residence on Federal street, and fell, breaking her left arm. It was promptly set by the doctor, and the lady is doing well.

The lot on Washington street, between Federal and Main, recently occupied by Mr. E. M. Pace, whose residence was destroyed by fire some weeks ago, was sold yesterday to Captain John F. Wilson, postmaster, for \$2,250.

The repetition of the Chimes of Normandy has been indefinitely postponed.

Sheriff John W. Wright, of your city, is on a visit to his brother here.

The sun is shining brightly this morning, and the shadow of the ground-hog is in plain view. This is to be much regretted, as Haze and Venor were already more than the public could contend against, without the addition of the ground-hog's weather.

TELEPHONE.—

[For the Dispatch.]

**“Irenaeus” and Dr. Plumer.**

In the New York *Observer* of the 13th of January there appeared a very interesting tribute to the memory of the late Rev. Dr. Plumer from the pen of “Irenaeus” (the Rev. Dr. Prince). Referring to the subject of the sketch as an able debater, he was, he represents that “when he was seated in Richmond, Va., a legal question, intended to taxation of ministers,” came up, “the italics are the writer's of this note,” “and the clergy appointed Dr. Plumer to represent them in resistance to the proposed measure.” &c.

Another writer for the northern press, shortly after Dr. Plumer's death, made a statement in reference to the measure on which the debate occurred, but stated that it was in relation to another question.

Both of the writers were in error; and it is not doubtful that both would be very unwilling to admit, even in so unimportant a matter, any inaccurate statement.

It was about 1846 (this writer is not very certain as to the date) a committee of the Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church of Virginia (consisting of Messrs. W. H. Macfarland, James Lyons, Ed. Fontaine, and D. May) presented to the General Assembly a petition of their constituents for a law authorizing the religious congregations of this State to hold property to a limited amount.” The Baptists also presented a similar petition. The paper is a calm, dignified, and able presentation of the views of the petitioners. The first sentence states, “that, in common with all other denominations in the Commonwealth, they suffer manifold and great injuries for the want of some adequate provision of law to enable them to hold and transmit property.” It asked that the Legislature would pass a law affording the protection desired. Among the enumerated objects of protection, one asked for funds dedicated to the foundation of a theological seminary, and one for the relief of widows and orphans of deceased clergymen.

The petitions were referred to the Committee of Courts of Justice, who held meetings in the hall of the House of Delegates, and Dr. Plumer was heard in opposition to the petition, and Messrs. W. H. Macfarland and James Lyons (we are not sure as to the last-named worthy gentleman, who “still lives,” honored and respected by all who knew him) advocated the prayer of the petitioners.

Mr. Macfarland's speech (printed in 1846 by Mr. H. K. Lee) is before the writer, and is one of great clearness and ability.

The prayer of the petition was not granted, and the views of Dr. Plumer were sustained by popular opinion, while many of all denominations did not at all concur in the opinions of the majority of the Legislature.

It will not be inappropriate to contribute a historical fact or two in connection with this matter without discussing the merits of the questions involved.

So strong was the opposition to the incorporation of religious associations and institutions that at the period mentioned (about 1846) the trustees of theological seminaries in Virginia would not apply for sets of incorporation. Large funds belonging to Union Theological Seminary (in Prince Edward) were held in the names of A. B., and C. & C., and their survivors in trust, for the use and benefit of this seminary.

Twenty years thereafter, in the Assembly of 1866-67, an act of incorporation of “the Trustees of Union Theological Seminary in Virginia” (such is the title of the corporation) was passed by the Legislature of Virginia unanimously!

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**SPECIAL!**

THE LARGEST STOCK

OF HAMMER, SAW, SCREW, NAIL, & CO.

HANDSOME DINNER-, TEA-, AND TOILET-SETS

to be found south of New York.

10 to 20 per cent.

A full line of CHRISTMAS GOODS, consisting of all the NOVELTIES imported. Call and examine and be convinced of our low prices.

E. B. TAYLOR,  
1011 North Eighth street.

**FURNITURE.**

GREATLY REDUCED.

TO CALL AND SEE THE LATENT-WAVER, A SHIRRING-MACHINE—sewing with either one or two needles, capable of making 500 stitches per minute, and of doing the work of twenty hands.

WHEELER & WILSON  
MANUFACTURING COMPANY,  
No. 30 North Ninth street.

fe 1-2-3.

FOR RENT, THAT LARGE STORE, WITH THREE-STORY STONE IRON FRONT, NO. 130 Main street, recent, occupied by C. W. Thorne & Co., with three upper floors, elevator, &c.; sixteen rooms, kitchen and scullery, &c. Possession at once. Good terms to a first-class tenant.

ROBERT B. LYNE,  
Real Estate Agent.

Bank and Electrical streets.

fe 3-4.

FOR RENT, THAT DESIRABLE DWELLING, NO. 805 Clay street, between Elisha and Ninth streets, containing eight rooms, besides kitchen and scullery, rents very low. There is a large brick stable upon the premises. Apply to

ROBERT B. LYNE,  
Real Estate Agent.

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FOR RENT, THAT NEAT AND CONVENIENT SMALL BRICK DWELLING, NO. 720 Clay street, between Elisha and Ninth streets, containing six rooms, besides kitchen and scullery, rents very low. Address to

H. L. STAPLES & CO.,  
Real Estate Agents.

fe 1-2-3.

FOR RENT, DWELLING, NO. 712 Clay street, between Elisha and Ninth streets, containing six rooms, besides kitchen and scullery, rents very low. Address to

CHARLES T. PAVIS,  
No. 111 north Eighth street.

fe 1-3-This

CROCKERY, GLASSWARE, &c.

SP. SPECIAL